

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April is Month of the Military Child

RAPID CITY, S.D. – April marks the nation’s “Month of the Military Child,” a time to honor military youth in our communities who have been impacted by deployments and the challenges military families face before, during and after deployments.

In tribute to the 7,500 military children in the state, South Dakota’s Operation: Military Kids (OMK) Program, part of the 4-H Youth Development program of SDSU Cooperative Extension, is inviting everyone to join in and be part of the “Purple Up! For Military Kids Day,” being held Wednesday, April 15.

South Dakota communities, businesses and organizations are being encouraged to wear purple on that date, as a tangible way to show their support and thanks to all military children for their strength and sacrifices. Established by Casper Weinberger in 1986, the Month of the Military Child recognizes the important role military children play in our communities. We pause each year to honor the millions of military children for their contributions to their families.

According to Sheila Troxel Snyder, OMK state coordinator, purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.

“OMK hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate these young heroes and make it possible for military kids to visually witness the support of their community,” said Snyder.

OMK is an ongoing, dynamic program to support and promote the children of deployed military service professionals. OMK is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Army, South Dakota 4-H, American Legion, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Its purpose is to provide local community support for the children of service women and men from South Dakota. The South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service administers the program and its offices are located at South Dakota State University’s West River Agricultural Center in Rapid.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about Purple Up! For Military Kids Day, please contact Ms. Sheila Troxel Snyder, SD State OMK coordinator, at the SDSU West River Ag Center at 605-394-2236, or at Sheila.snyder@sdstate.edu